

Message Text

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PINT, EAIR, RP

SUBJECT:WEEKLY STATUS REPORT - PHILIPPINES

TO : EA - MR. HOLBROOKE

FROM: EA/PHL - BENJAMIN A. FLECK

1. PSINAKIS VERSUS CIVILETTI (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

STEVE PSINAKIS HAS PROVIDED EA/PHL WITH COPIES OF CORRESPONDENCE WITH SENATOR EASTLAND AND WITH CHIEF COUNSEL ROSENBERGER, WHO IS ALSO STAFF DIRECTOR OF THE SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE, WHICH IS CONDUCTING THE CIVILETTI CONFIRMATION HEARING. IN HIS LETTER TO EASTLAND PSINAKIS ALLEGED THE EXISTENCE OF A COVER-UP WITHIN THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT WITH REGARD TO THE FBI INVESTIGATION OF THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MIJARES BRIBERY CHARGES. PSINAKIS ALLEGED CIVILETTI INVOLVEMENT IN THE COVER-UP AND VOLUNTEERED TO PROVIDE DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE AND TO SUBMIT HIMSELF FOR QUESTIONING BY THE COMMITTEE. MR. ROSENBERGER REPLIED THAT THE MIJARES MATTER IS NOT RELEVANT TO THE CIVILETTI CONFIRMATION HEARING BUT INVITED PSINAKIS TO SUBMIT WHATEVER EVIDENCE HE MIGHT HAVE, SO THAT THE COMMITTEE MIGHT DETERMINE WHETHER

THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT HAS UNREASONABLY DELAYED ITS INVESTIGATION OF THE MIJARES AFFAIR. TO THIS SUGGESTION, PSINAKIS SENT A WAFFLING REPLY, DECLINING TO SUBMIT ANYTHING UNTIL THE COMMITTEE RECONSIDERED THE RELEVANCE OF HIS INFORMATION TO THE CIVILITTI HEARING.

2. PSINAKIS PRAISES HABIB (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

PSINAKIS HAS ALSO PROVIDED US WITH A COPY OF A LETTER HE SENT TO UNDER SECRETARY HABIB, EXPRESSING REGRET OVER PHIL'S "EARLY RETIREMENT" AND GOOD WISHES FOR HIS CONTINUED RECOVERY. WITH THE LETTER, PSINAKIS ENCLOSED THE TEXT OF HIS COLUMN IN A FORTHCOMING ISSUE OF THE "PHILIPPINE NEWS" IN WHICH HE SPEAKS OF HABIB IN THE FOLLOWING TERMS:

"THIS IS AN OPPORTUNE TIME TO EXPRESS MY PERSONAL REGRETS FOR THE PREMATURE RETIREMENT OF UNDERSECRETARY PHILIP HABIB. MR. HABIB IS AN HONORABLE MAN WHO SERVED HIS COUNTRY WELL UNDER TRYING CIRCUMSTANCES. ALTHOUGH HE SERVED UNDER KISSINGER, HE HAD LITTLE IN COMMON WITH HIS BOSS' VIEWS ON MORALITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS. FOR EXAMPLE, MR. HABIB HAD REPORTED TO HIS SUPERIORS THE ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES OF TONGSUN PARK AND THE KCIA IN THE EARLY SEVENTIES BUT KISSINGER REFUSED TO TAKE ANY ACTION TO AVOID EMBARRASSING AN OPPRESSIVE AND CORRUPT BUT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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'FRIENDLY' DICTATOR LIKE PARK CHUNG HEE...ALTHOUGH I HAD SEVERAL DIFFICULT DISCUSSIONS WITH MR. HABIB DURING THE KISSINGER YEARS ON THE U.S. FOREIGN POLICY TOWARDS THE MARCOS REGIME, I HAD REPEATEDLY EXPRESSED MY RESPECT FOR HIS OWN PRINCIPLES AND HIS EFFORTS TO IMPLEMENT A JUST AND MORAL FOREIGN POLICY. I WOULD LIKE TO REITERATE MY RESPECT FOR MR. HABIB NOW THAT HE IS NO LONGER IN POWER AND TO WISH HIM A HAPPY LONG LIFE AS A PRIVATE CITIZEN."

3. AIRCRAFT FOR THE PHILIPPINES? (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

I WAS VISITED ON MARCH 29 BY A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE VOUGHT CORPORATION, WHICH IS SELLING 25 F-8 AIRCRAFT TO THE GOP. HE STATED THAT THE RECONDITIONING OF THE AIRCRAFT IS PROCEEDING WELL AND THAT THE MAY 1 TARGET DATE FOR THE DELIVERY OF THE FIRST AIRCRAFT TO THE GOP WOULD BE MET. HE SAID THE GOP IS PLANNING TO BUY A SECOND LOT OF 25 DURING THE NEXT TWO YEARS AND AFTER THAT WOULD LIKE TO PURCHASE A-7S. HE ASKED WHETHER THERE WAS ANY LIKELIHOOD OF THE ADMINISTRATION'S REVERSING ITS TURNDOWN OF A-7S FOR THE PHILIPPINES, SUGGESTING THAT IF IT WERE THE GUIDANCE SYSTEM WHICH HAD MADE THE AIRCRAFT

"TOO SOPHISTICATED" FOR THE GOP IN THE JUDGMENT OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, THAT VOUGHT COULD REPLACE THE GUIDANCE SYSTEM WITH A LESS SOPHISTICATED ONE, WHICH WOULD STILL ENABLE THE GOP TO BENEFIT FROM THE OTHER HIGH PERFORMANCE CAPABILITIES OF THE AIRCRAFT. HE STATED THAT VOUGHT HAS PRETTY WELL BEEN SQUEEZED OUT OF ALL MARKETS EXCEPT THE FAR EAST AND IS "RATHER HUNGRY" FOR ORDERS. HE SAID THAT HE WAS AWARE THAT THE GOP SHOPPING LIST SUBMITTED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE BASE NEGOTIATIONS WAS HIGHLY INFLATED AND OBSERVED THAT THE FILIPINOS HAD VORACIOUS AND UNREALISTIC APPETITES WHEN IT CAME TO MILITARY EQUIPMENT. I REPLIED THAT ONE OF OUR CURRENT OBJECTIVES WITH REGARD TO EQUIPMENT FOR THE GOP WAS TO PREVENT THE PHILIPPINE ARMED FORCES FROM DEVELOPING A SEVERE CASE OF INDIGESTION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WHICH OTHERWISE MIGHT RESULT FROM CATERING TO THEIR OVER-AMBITIOUS EXPECTATIONS. I REMINDED HIM OF THE ADMINISTRATION'S ARMS TRANSFER POLICY AND SAID THAT SINCE WE WERE DISCUSSING HYPOTHETICAL PROCUREMENT OF AIRCRAFT SOME THREE OR FOUR YEARS IN THE FUTURE, I COULD GIVE HIM NO ACCURATE PREDICTION REGARDING WHAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT POSITION MIGHT BE AT THAT TIME WITH REGARD TO ACQUISITION OF A-7S BY THE GOP.

4. AQUINO POLLING WELL (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

ROBERT TRENT JONES TELEPHONED ON MARCH 28 TO INFORM ME THAT AQUINO'S BROTHER-IN-LAW HAD TOLD JONES THAT PRIVATE POLLS IN THE PHILIPPINES SHOWED THAT AQUINO WAS HIGHLY THOUGHT OF BY THE ELECTORATE. I TOLD JONES THAT WE HAD RECEIVED SIMILAR REPORTS FROM MANILA. HE SAID THAT THERE IS A POSSIBILITY HE MAY BE VISITING THE PHILIPPINES FOR THE INAUGURATION OF ONE OF THE GOLF COURSES WHICH HE HAS DESIGNED JUST ABOUT AT ELECTION TIME. HE ALSO REPORTED THAT AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL IS HOLDING A LARGE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION IN SAN FRANCISCO THIS COMING WEEKEND, WITH INDIVIDUAL DISCUSSION SESSIONS SCHEDULED ON VARIOUS PROBLEM COUNTRIES, INCLUDING THE PHILIPPINES.

5. PLEASE NOTE FOR EA ONLY CAPTION.

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